

**CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**October 10, 2022**  
**OTHERS PRESENT**

-----  
Rick McVey, Chairman  
Jeremiah Jefferies  
John Dickerson  
H. Vernon Massengill  
Steve Oestreicher

Bryan Miller, County Manager  
Carla Smith, Clerk to the Board  
Melissa Miller, Deputy Finance Officer  
Melissa Williamson, Deputy County Manager  
Aisha Gwynn, Assistant County Manager  
-----

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Caswell, North Carolina, met in a joint meeting with the Board of Education on Monday, October 10, 2022 at 1:00 pm at the Caswell County Schools Administrative Building.

Members present from the Board of Education: Gladys Garland, Donna Hudson, Mel Battle, Vennie Beggarly, Trudy Blackwell, and Tracy Stanley. Dr. Sandra Carter, Superintendent and Connie Kimrey, Clerk to the Board were also present  
Absent: Wayne Owen

**WELCOME:**

Vice Chair, Gladys Garland called the meeting of Board of Education to order.

Chairman McVey called the Caswell County Board of Commissioners Joint Meeting to order.

Dr. Carter said I guess the first thing would be questions. That would be part of the open forum. I do have a presentation that I can share. There is really no agenda other than the open forum.

County Manager Bryan Miller said he agreed with Dr. Carter. This is a forum for the Board of Commissioners to ask questions to the Board of Education and vice versa. One thing that we all realize is that we are all here for one common goal, and that is for the betterment of our students and the children that attend the schools. I look forward to some constructive conversations on how we do that. How we make the environment the best for our children.

Commissioner Massengill said he thinks that Dr. Carter should go through her presentation, and maybe that will answer a lot of questions.

Dr. Carter shared copies of the presentation with the Board of Commissioners and those present so that they could see the numbers clearly. Then Dr. Carter began the presentation with the assistance of Carol Boaz and Medina Jones. The Slide presentation is following this page.

October 10, 2022

# Caswell County Schools Academic Progress



2021 - 2022 School Year

Dr. Sandra Carter  
Superintendent  
October 10, 2022

## In the News....

### State school accountability report shows pandemic's lingering impact

NC POLICY WATCH

<https://www.dpi.nc.gov/news/press-releases/2022/09/01/>

Howard cautioned that the 2021-22 test data must be considered within the context of all COVID disruptions, and though 2018-19 data is included in the report released today, it is not intended to be used as a comparison for the purpose of evaluating effort or drawing conclusions. Tammy Howard, NCDPI Accountability Director

For 2021-22, 864 schools have been identified as low performing, up from 488 in 2018-19.

"While these results are sobering, they are not unexpected," said Michael Maher, deputy superintendent for the division of standards, accountability and research, reminding the state board of the chaos the pandemic caused in K-12 education across the nation. EdNC

Sept., 2022 News Articles



## Within Our State and Region

Statewide School Performance Letter Grades Changes					
	A	B	C	D	F
Statewide change in School Performance Letter Grades from 2019 to 2022	-58	298	-135	370 +	173 +
Total for 2021-2022	145	446	907	833	264

If a school EXCEEDS growth, the school is not designated Low Performing even if they have a D or F School Performance letter grade.

### State Low Performing Designations

	2018-2019	2021-2022
Low Performing Schools	488	864
Low Performing Districts	8	29

## Results in Economically Disadvantaged Schools

**Only 30 percent of economically-disadvantaged students meet the state's standard for career and college readiness on state tests. In**

comparison, 58 percent of non-economically-disadvantaged students meet the standard. This impacts college admission opportunities; only 36 percent of economically-disadvantaged students meet the minimum ACT score for admission into the University of North Carolina system while 68 percent of all other students meet the minimum score.



### A-F school performance grade system

North Carolina assigns every school an A-F letter grade. The system is supposed to be a measure of school quality, but instead has become a measure of school demographics. Only about 20 percent of "A" schools have above-average enrollment of economically-disadvantaged students. Nearly all schools labeled with an "F" grade have above-average enrollment of economically-disadvantaged students.



# Correlation of Results to Economically Disadvantaged Schools in NC

Light blue bands note where percent of schools with that Performance Grade are higher than the overall state percent.

Currently BYSHS

Currently Dillard, North, Oakwood, South, and Stoney Creek

## School Performance Grades and School Accountability Growth by Percentage of Students Identified as Economically Disadvantaged

Tables 16 and 17 present SPGs and school accountability growth by the percentage of Economically Disadvantaged Students (EDS) for schools. The percent of EDS is divided into five strata: 0–20%, 21–40%, 41–60%, 61–80%, and 81–100%. Each table shows whether the percent of schools is within +/- 3 percentage points of the state-level data or above/below this range.

TABLE 16. Number and percent of schools by School Performance Grade and EDS percent ranges<sup>1</sup>

Percent EDS	Measure	School Performance Grade					
		A	B	C	D	F	Total
State level	Percent	5.6	17.2	35.0	32.1	10.2	100.0
0–20%	Number	76	198	67	8	0	349
	Percent	21.8	56.7	19.2	2.3	0.0	100.0
21%–40%	Number	57	199	440	133	14	843
	Percent	6.8	23.6	52.2	15.8	1.7	100.0
41%–60%	Number	12	44	344	484	93	977
	Percent	1.2	4.5	35.2	49.5	9.5	100.0
61%–80%	Number	0	3	56	195	136	390
	Percent	0.0	0.8	14.4	50.0	34.9	100.0
81%–100%	Number	0	2	0	13	21	36
	Percent	0.0	5.6	0.0	36.1	58.3	100.0

<sup>1</sup> Due to rounding, the percentage of schools may not total 100%.

<sup>2</sup> Green: +/- three percentage points of the state-level percentages.

<sup>3</sup> Blue: Three percentage points or more above the state-level percentages.

<sup>4</sup> Yellow: Three percentage points or more below the state-level percentages.

Excerpt from 2021-2022 Performance and Growth of NC Public Schools Annual Testing Reports (September 1, 2022)

## Within Our State and Region

	Statewide Data	
	2018-2019	2021-2022
Low Performing Schools	488	864
Low Performing Districts	8	29

Designated LP School System	Number of Schools
Asheboro City	8
Caswell	6
Guilford	118
Lexington	5
Thomasville	4

Caswell: If 1 school was not designated LP then the district would not be designated as such

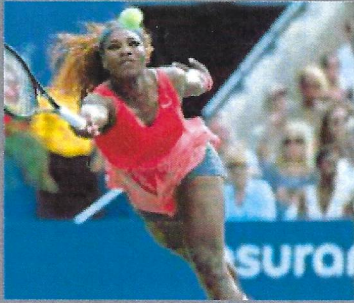
"I will ask that no one else refer to these schools as low performing schools — they are schools designated as low performing," Deputy State Superintendent Michael Maher said while co-presenting the data. "Why does that matter? Because they are designated based on a formula that prioritizes proficiency and we are seeing lower rates of proficiency due to the pandemic. EdNC

School System	Number of Schools	Status Change
Montgomery	9	If 1 more school was designated LP then district would be LP
Mt. Airy	3	If 1 more school was designated LP then district would be LP
Randolph	32	If 2 more schools were designated LP then district would be LP
Rockingham	21	If 3 more schools were designated LP then district would be LP
Stokes	18	If 4 more schools were designated LP then district would be LP
Winston-Salem/Forsyth	72	If 2 more schools were designated LP then district would be LP
Yadkin	13	If 1 more school was designated LP then district would be LP
Alamance/Burlington School System	35	If 6 more schools were designated LP then district would be LP



# School Performance Grades

## Current Formula



Serena Williams

80% Student **PROFICIENCY**

20% Student **GROWTH**



## SCHOOL PERFORMANCE GRADES

3 Year Comparison							
2017-2018		2018-2019		2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	
School	Grade	EVAAS Academic Growth Status	Grade	EVAAS Academic Growth Status	COVID	Grade	EVAAS Academic Growth Status
North Elementary	C	Not Met	C	Met		C	Met
Oakwood Elementary	D	Met	C	Exceeded		D	Met
South Elementary	D	Not Met	C	Met		D	Met
Stoney Creek Elementary	D	Not Met	D	Met		D	Exceeded
Dillard Middle	D	Met	D	Not Met		D	Met
Barlett Yancey	C	Not Met	C	Not Met		D	Not Met

\*\*\*\*\*  
While the % of NC schools meeting or exceeding growth declined from 2018-19 to 2021-22, Caswell County Schools **INCREASED** the number of schools meeting or exceeding GROWTH.  
\*\*\*\*\*





# School Performance Grades Formulas

Currently, School Performance Grades are composed of student grade level achievement multiplied by 80% and the growth score for the school multiplied by 20%. Proposed new models may include formulas with a larger emphasis on growth.

For Example:

**Using the CURRENT  
80% Achievement/ 20% Growth  
Model:**

Achievement Score: 38  
Growth Score: 81

$$\begin{aligned} &38 \times 80\% = 30 \\ + &81 \times 20\% = 16 \\ &\quad \quad \quad \mathbf{46\ D} \end{aligned}$$

School Performance Letter Grades Scale	
A	100-85
B	84-70
C	69-55
D	54-40
F	40-0

For Example:

**Using the 50% Achievement/  
50% Growth Model:**

Achievement Score: 38  
Growth Score: 81

$$\begin{aligned} &38 \times 50\% = 19 \\ + &81 \times 50\% = 41 \\ &\quad \quad \quad \mathbf{60\ C} \end{aligned}$$

# School Performance Grades Formulas

All Caswell county schools had high growth marks and would have higher School Performance Grades if growth counted for half of the grade as in the proposed 50/50 model, an average of 12 points higher per school.

Five of Six schools in Caswell County would be Cs given growth carried more weight in the formula.

	Using Current 80/20 Formula	Using Proposed 50/50 model
Bartlett Yancey Senior High School	48 D	53 D
N L Dillard Middle School	45 D	57 C
North Elementary School	55 C	65 C
Oakwood Elementary School	46 D	59 C
South Elementary School	44 D	58 C
Stoney Creek Elementary School	41 D	56 C

"I think we're all hard pressed to find professionals in the education field at this point who believe that growth is not more important than proficiency," Duncan said, thanking Truitt for leading efforts to change the model. "Growth is what moves our students forward."

Source: EdNC <https://www.ednc.org/school-accountability-model-low-performing-performa/>

EdNC

School Performance Letter Grades Scale	
A	100-85
B	84-70
C	69-55
D	54-40
F	40-0



# School Performance Grades Formulas

The North Carolina of Public Instruction is beginning a process to overhaul school performance grades and is seeking public input through a new survey <https://www.ednc.org/school-performance-grade-survey/>. The survey ends Oct.10th, at 5:00pm.

The state's A-F performance grades were developed so communities could better understand the quality of North Carolina's public schools, but a growing consensus has led many to believe that the current model does not accurately reflect all aspects of school quality because it puts too much weight on student achievement as determined by high-stakes testing.

Survey link is located on <https://www.caswell.k12.nc.us> webpage

Does the formula in how school grades are calculated need to change from the current 80%/20% model?  
(take the survey...)

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Catherine Truitt said changes to the school grading system are needed not only to measure school performance more accurately, but also to help drive better student outcomes since accountability measures have a strong influence on the priorities for teaching and learning in schools.

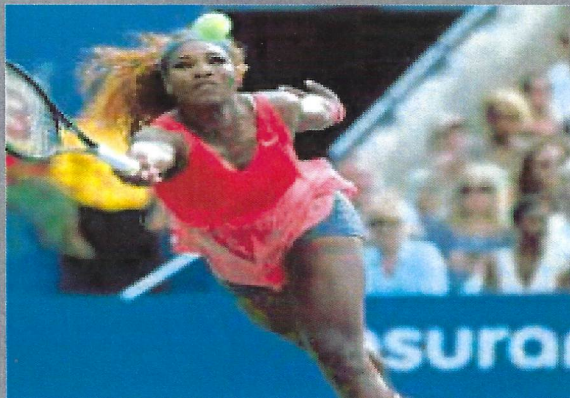
"School performance grades are really about school quality, but right now the model overemphasizes student test scores while not accounting for the other ways schools are preparing students for post-secondary success," Truitt said. "The model should incorporate other important metrics - not just high-stakes student testing - to redefine school quality. This

Catherine Truitt, State Superintendent, NCDPI



## Proficiency - 80%

Proficiency = EVERY student meeting same level of achievement.

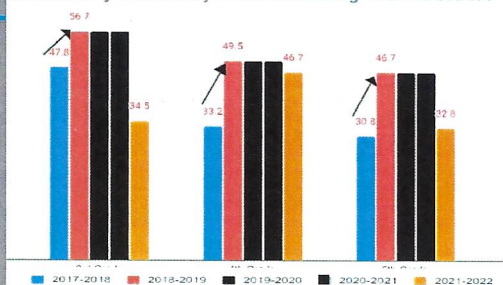


Serena Williams



## 3-5 READING PROFICIENCY

Caswell County Elementary Schools Reading: 3rd-5th Grades



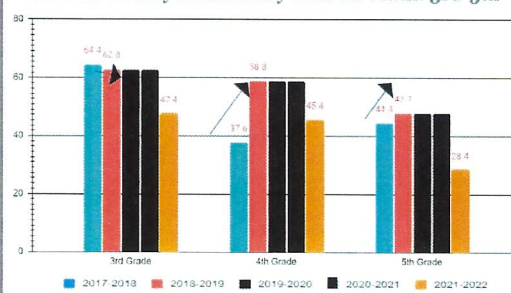
Stoney  
Creek  
Met Growth

North  
Met  
Growth

Oakwood  
Met  
Growth

South  
Met  
Growth

Caswell County Elementary Schools Math: 3rd-5th



North  
Met  
Growth

Oakwood  
Exceeded  
Growth

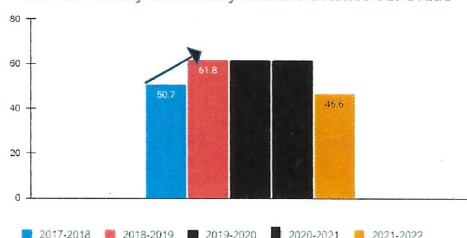
South  
Exceeded  
Growth

Stoney  
Creek  
Exceeded  
Growth

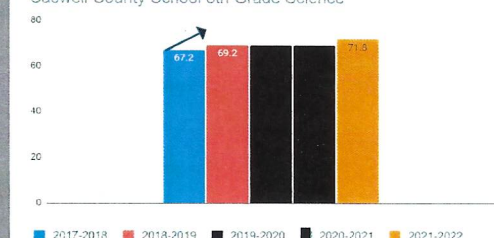
**Reading and Math Supports:** Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading (LETRS) training, increased emphasis on teaching of phonics and rigorous Engage curriculum, regular data analysis and screening of all students to identify those at risk in reading and math to provide timely support, as well as intentional small group instruction, intervention and remediation built into the school day.

## 5th and 8th GRADE SCIENCE PROFICIENCY

Caswell County Elementary Schools Science 5th Grade



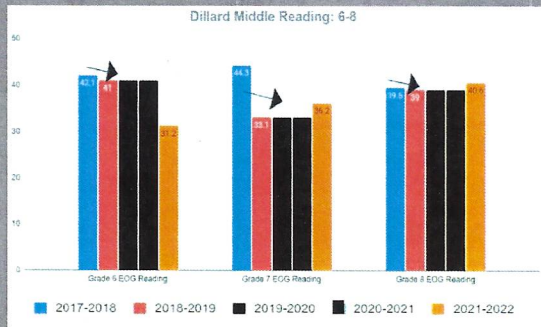
Caswell County School 8th Grade Science



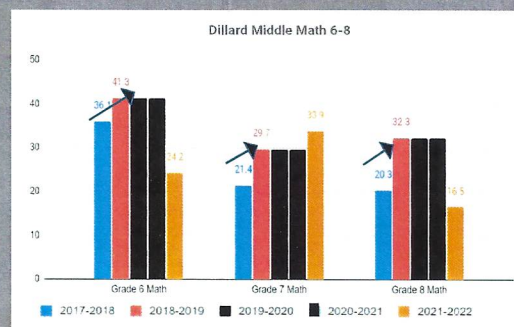
**Science Supports:** Hands on science manipulatives aligned to state standards, online realistic digital resources and interactive simulations from Discovery Education, analyzing and unpacking state standards, quarterly data analysis, and reteaching as needed, focusing on science academic vocabulary, as well as aligning content taught to test specifications.



## DILLARD MIDDLE PROFICIENCY: READING AND MATH 6-8



N. L. Dillard  
Met  
Growth

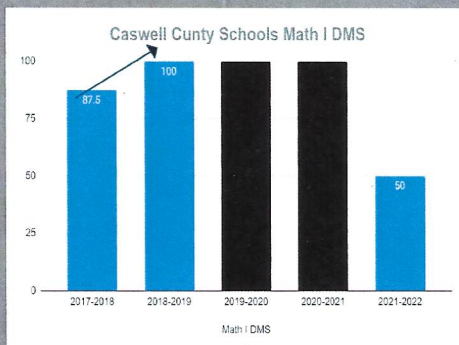


N. L. Dillard  
Met  
Growth

**Math and Reading Supports:** Focus on data in Professional Learning Communities which include additional same content area teachers. Strategic focus on MTSS implementation on the middle school level. Teachers will attend NCDPI training and supports for increasing student achievement. Remediation opportunities for students will be embedded in the schedule and after school tutoring will be available.

## DILLARD MIDDLE PROFICIENCY

### MATH I



### MATH I Supports

Collaboration with math instructional coach

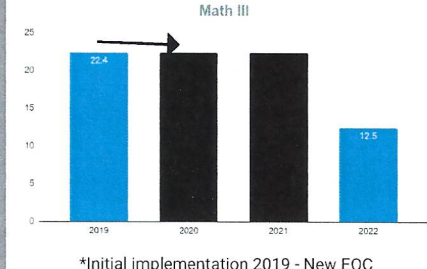
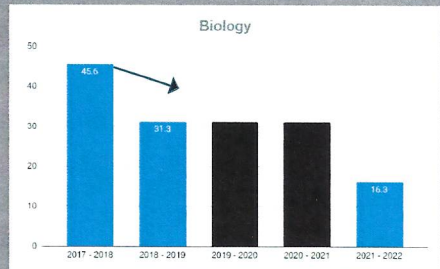
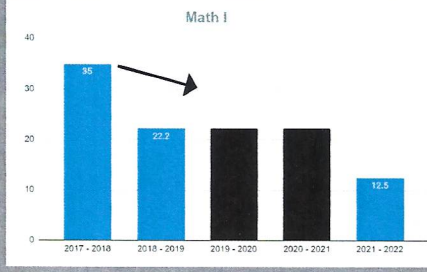
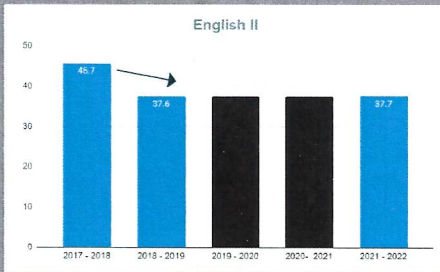
Focus on data in Professional Learning Community which include additional same content area teachers.

Strategic focus on MTSS implementation on the middle school level.

Teachers will attend NCDPI training and supports for increasing student achievement.

Remediation opportunities for students will be embedded in the schedule and after school tutoring will be available.

# Bartlett Yancey Senior High School



\*Initial implementation 2019 - New EOC

## EOCs Supports:

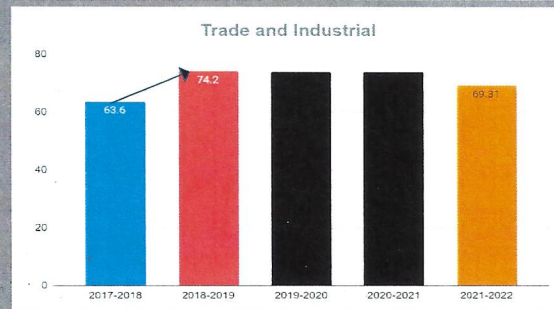
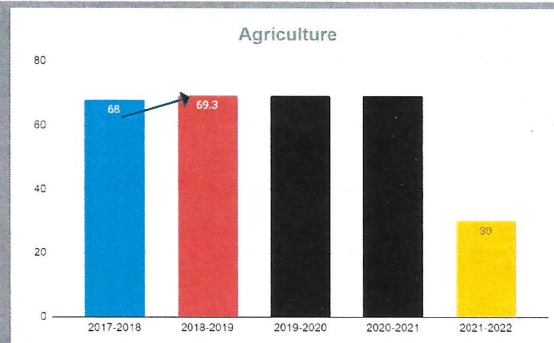
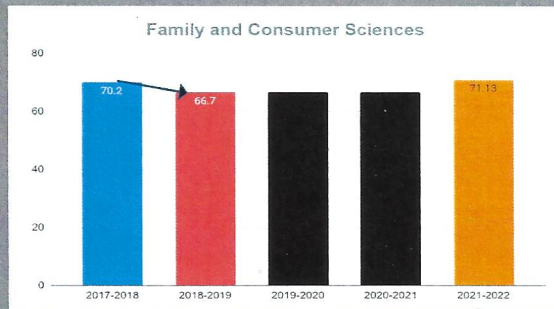
EVAAS Data analysis support through NCDPI

Implementation of foundational courses to support student readiness and mastery of outcomes

Focus on data in Professional Learning Teams

Increased certified teachers in all subject areas (Elevate K-12)

## BYSHS CTE PROFICIENCY







## GROWTH - 20%

**Growth** = EVERY student earning one year's worth of academic growth, regardless of where they are at the beginning of the school year.



## GROWTH - 20% STATE SUBGROUP VS. CCS SUBGROUPS

Subgroup Growth Compared to the State 2021-2022

	State of NC	BYSHS	NL Dillard Middle School	North Elementary	Oakwood Elementary	South Elementary	Stoney Creek Elementary
All Students	Not Met	Not Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Exceeded
American Indian	Not Met						
Asian	Not Met						
Black	Not Met	Not Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	
Hispanic	Not Met	Met	Met				Met
Two or More Races	Not Met		Met				
White	Not Met	Not Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Exceeded
Economically Disadvantaged	Not Met	Not Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met
English Learners	Not Met						
Students With Disabilities	Not Met	Met	Met	Met		Met	

Blank spots indicate not enough students or student scores to make a subgroup.



## CCS Historical EVAAS Growth Data (20%)

SCHOOL	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
North Elementary	Not Met -4.04	Not Met -3.44	Met -1.87			Met 0.01
Oakwood Elementary	Not Met -4.04	Met -.57	Exceeded 2.09			Met .48
South Elementary	Not Met -3.69	Not Met -4.36	Met 1.48			Met 1.08
Stoney Creek Elementary	Not Met -2.79	Not Met -5.32	Met -0.08			Exceeded 2.27
Dillard Middle School	Not Met -3.20	Met -0.06	Not Met -3.68			Met -0.06
Bartlett Yancey Senior High School	Not Met -3.24	Not Met -3.47	Not Met -4.40			Not Met -4.42

- B** Exceeds Expected Growth: Estimated mean NCE gain is above the growth standard by at least 2 standard errors.
- C** Meets Expected Growth: Estimated mean NCE gain is below the growth standard by at most 2 standard errors but less than 2 standard errors above it.
- R** Does Not Meet Expected Growth: Estimated mean NCE gain is below the growth standard by more than 2 standard errors.

## CCS GROWTH - 20% - Reading

Year	Gr3	Gr4	Gr5	Gr6	Gr7	Gr8	ENG II
2015-2016	+0.3	+1.1	-2.5	-3.7	-5.4	-3.4	-0.6
2016-2017	-1.3	-1.6	-4.3	-2.2	-2.0	+1.9	0.0
2017-2018	-0.5	-2.0	-1.3	-1.8	+0.8	+2.2	-0.3
2018-2019	+0.6	-0.9	+1.1	-2.9	-1.1	-2.2	-1.0
2021-2022 To Be Released	Grades 3-5 combined met growth at all elementary schools, individual grades released October 31st			Grades 6-8 combined met growth, individual grades released October 31st			

### English II Reading Supports:

Increased certified teachers

Continued use of rigorous Engage curriculum

English and Reading Professional Development Support from NCDPI

- B** Exceeds Expected Growth: Estimated mean NCE gain is above the growth standard by at least 2 standard errors.
- C** Meets Expected Growth: Estimated mean NCE gain is below the growth standard by at most 2 standard errors but less than 2 standard errors above it.
- R** Does Not Meet Expected Growth: Estimated mean NCE gain is below the growth standard by more than 2 standard errors.



# CCS GROWTH - 20% - Math

Year	Gr4	Gr5	Gr6	Gr7	Gr8	Math I	Math III
2015-2016	+4.6	-5.4	-5.9	-2.3	-3.2	-1.6	
2016-2017	-1.2	-7.3	-2.9	-4.4	-1.0	-1.0	
2017-2018	-3.5	-4.5	+0.1	-3.1	+0.2	-1.7	
2018-2019	+2.4	-1.2	+0.2	-4.6	+0.6	-0.8	-1.0
2021-2022 To Be Released	Grades 3-5 combined exceeded growth at 3/4 elementary schools (Oakwood, South, Stoney Creek). Individual grades released October 31st		Grades 6-8 combined met growth. Individual grades released October 31st			Oct 31st	Oct 31st

## Math Supports:

Alignment of math curriculum with testing expectations

Continued use of Eureka Math in grades 3-5

Math Professional Development Support from NCDPI

Secondary Math Instructional Coaching

- B** Exceeds Expected Growth: Estimated mean NCE gain is above the growth standard by at least 2 standard errors.
- G** Meets Expected Growth: Estimated mean NCE gain is below the growth standard by at most 2 standard errors but less than 2 standard errors above it.
- R** Does Not Meet Expected Growth: Estimated mean NCE gain is below the growth standard by more than 2 standard errors.

# GROWTH 20% - Science

Year	Gr5	Gr8	Biology
2015-2016	+0.2	+0.2	-1.4
2016-2017	-1.0	+2.3	-0.7
2017-2018	-2.8	+0.7	-0.8
2018-2019	-0.8	+1.1	-2.3
2021-2022 To Be Released	October 31st	October 31st	October 31st

## Biology Supports:

Altered the scheduled to provide introductory supports prior to the Biology EOC.

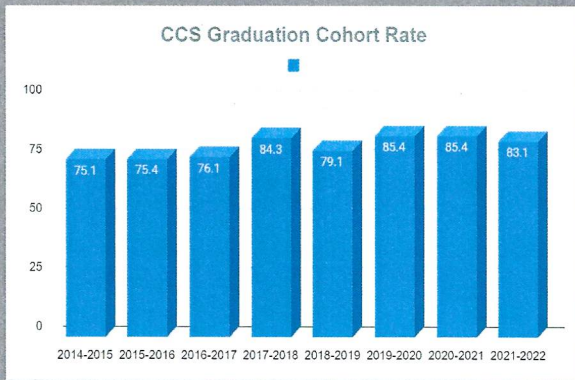
Increased focus on integration of the curriculum

Strategic implementation of testing specifications aligned to formative assessments and curriculum

- B** Exceeds Expected Growth: Estimated mean NCE gain is above the growth standard by at least 2 standard errors.
- G** Meets Expected Growth: Estimated mean NCE gain is below the growth standard by at most 2 standard errors but less than 2 standard errors above it.
- R** Does Not Meet Expected Growth: Estimated mean NCE gain is below the growth standard by more than 2 standard errors.

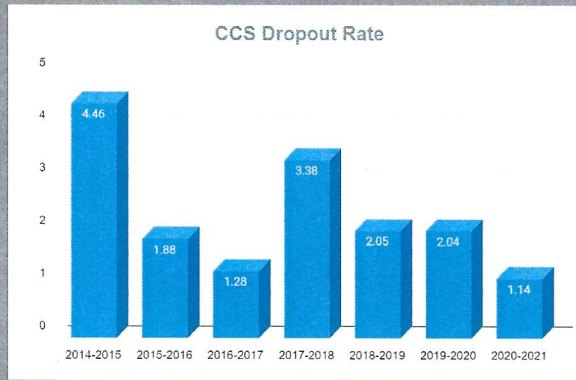


## GRADUATION RATE TRENDS



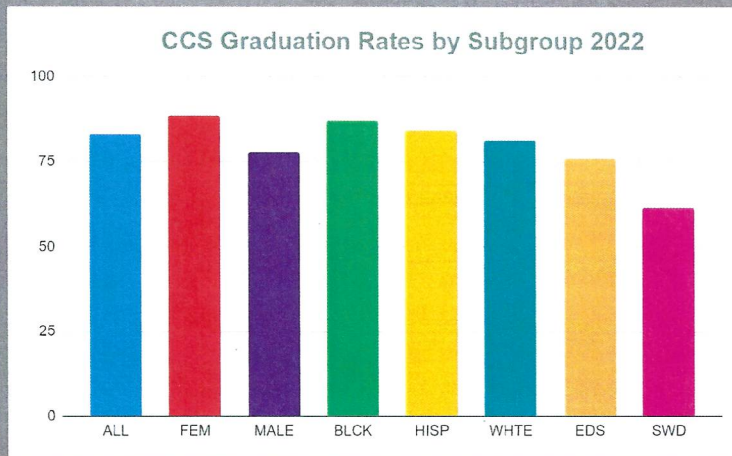
Percent of CCS Students  
Graduating within Four Years

## DROPOUT RATE TRENDS



Percent of CCS Students Who Are  
Not Dropping Out of School

## CCS Graduation Rates by Subgroups



Percent of CCS Students Graduating within Four Years by Subgroups



## Low Wealth & Rural Counties & Broadband Comparison

County	Low Performing District	Population (Rural)	Low Wealth %	Rank	Broadband Availability Percentage
Determination of Rural & Low Wealth					
Anson	Yes	27,000	70.79	3	28.67
Tyrrell	Yes	4,400	74.8	8	31.16
Caswell	Yes	23,000	75.41	9	33.5
Martin	Yes	24,000	76.31	11	44.26
Bertie	Yes	21,000	70.63	1	52.84
Halifax	Yes	54,000	76.17	10	55.19
Northampton	Yes	22,000	73.99	6	57.11
Hertford	Yes	24,000	72.26	5	58.08
Gates	No	12,000	71.79	4	38.17
McDowell	No	45,000	78.31	15	19.54
Bladen	No	35,000	74.21	7	21.1
Caldwell	No	82,000	77.56	13	50.9
Franklin	No	61,000	77.01	12	61.62
Sampson	No	64,000	70.65	2	40.53
Yadkin	No	38,000	78.19	14	26

\*<https://www.dpi.nc.gov/documents/fbs/allotments/support/low-wealth-ranking>

\*<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/1ca29805a2454ffab6b9579702b99e59/page/Broadband-Availability/>

## Per Pupil Spending for Low Wealth, Rural Counties with Broadband Comparison

County	Low Performing District	Per Pupil Spending	Low Wealth %	Rank	Broadband Availability Percentage
Determination of Low Wealth					
Anson	Yes	\$12,556.58	70.79	3	28.67
Tyrrell	Yes	\$17,902.81	74.8	8	31.16
Caswell	Yes	\$11,514.26	75.41	9	33.5
Martin	Yes	\$13,180.33	76.31	11	44.26
Bertie	Yes	\$14,685.12	70.63	1	52.84
Halifax	Yes	\$14,684.93	76.17	10	55.19
Northampton	Yes	\$18,562.12	73.99	6	57.11
Hertford	Yes	\$11,921.22	72.26	5	58.08
Gates	No	\$13,780.00	71.79	4	38.17

Source: NCDPI Finance



# Associates Pathway Degree Program Trends

Year	Number of CCS/PCC Graduates
2020 - 2021	4
2021 - 2022	12
2022 - 2023	26 (Projected)



BYSHS Students completing this pathway will receive both a high school diploma and a two year college degree on their high school graduation day!



## Strategies for District Success

**Data dives** with school leadership quarterly. Ongoing, regular **data analysis** by teachers, weekly data analysis by **grade level/content area teams**

**School Improvement Teams and Multi Systems of Support Teams (MTSS)** meet at each school regularly

**Quality Assurance Inventories** at each school led by district personnel include **data meetings with principal, classroom walkthroughs, discussions with staff** about needs aligned to student support priorities

**School tutoring and intervention plans** aligned to **student learning needs**



## Strategies for Elementary Student Success

Elementary schools' master schedules have built in times for small group remediation and intervention

Added time to reading instruction for students who are not demonstrating proficiency in reading

Regularly collect data and progress monitor students' skill acquisition

Corrective Reading groups daily in grades 4-5 and other research based reading interventions in grades K-3

Utilizing phonics programs and decodables to ensure students can analyze words, syllable types, sounds, and other patterns which help students read

## Continued Strategies for Elementary Student Success

Hire retired, certified teachers who tutor and provide research based instruction to catch students up. We begin as soon as possible, once consolidated funds drop in October.

For math, we are continuing Eureka Math, small group instruction and remediation as we did last year (exceeded growth)

Provide computer adaptive programs which identify gaps and supply individualized student instruction where needed (reading and math)

Teachers and school MTSS teams regularly look at student data to determine next steps to address student learning gaps



## Strategies for Secondary Student Success

**Foundation courses** for math are integrated in the schedule to support student mastery of skills;

The **dropout prevention specialist** will work with **counselors** to address students who are have high absenteeism;

The **counselors** will collaborate with the **dropout prevention specialist** to meet with parents and students to create **plans for academic success**; and

The **SRO** will make home visits with the **dropout prevention specialist** to conduct wellness checks; and

The **Secondary and Students Services** will collaborate over strategies to support implementation of student academic and wellness plans.

## Strategies for Secondary Student Success

**Data teams** will engage in **strategic** analysis and progress monitoring of student work;

**NCPDI training** math and reading teachers support;

Incrementally **reviewing and analyzing** computer-based programs to monitor ongoing student progress and **tailor remediation strategies** to meet students needs;

**Grade-level interventions and remediations** times are embedded during the school day;

**After school tutoring** will be available to additionally address student loss; and

**More certified teachers** including Elevate K-12 teachers to support student learning.



## Elementary Strategies for Parent Involvement

**Parent Involvement** is very important to success.

Schools use various means of communication, survey parents, and hold multiple informational events for parents throughout the year.

These include but are not limited to **summer reading kick offs** and **book give aways** with tips for reading with your child, **science nights** with hands on activities for parents and students to experiment together, **parent breakfasts/grade level meetings** giving information about classroom learning, **Title I nights**, **math nights**, and **parent guides** for grade levels and subjects.

Provide **individual student learning reports** such as Home Connect letters and information from computer adaptive programs which identify gaps and **give parents activities** to do at home to support learning.

## Secondary Strategies for Parent Involvement

Informational sessions for Associates Degree Pathway Programs (BYSHS), **Title I Night** (Middle School)

**Freshman Orientation** to specifically address questions **ninth grade students** and **parents new to the high school environment**;

**School Improvement Team invitations for parents** to join and/or collaborate over school initiatives;

**Individual student reports** available for parents to have access to student progress;

**Invitations for parents** to attend and support athletics, the arts, and CTE extra-curricular activities; and

**ConnectEd** to parents about upcoming events for involvement and knowledge.



Questions?





During the presentation Dr. Carter gave the proficiency by school, racial subgroups and Math and Reading. Commissioner Rick McVey said on this Department of Public Instruction (DPI) report, where you have an 80.0 score for school growth, so that's good. Dr. Carter said growth is good, but that's the overall grade. All subgroups made growth. Bartlett Yancey is the only school that did not make growth. There are some areas of growth need there. Commissioner McVey said the report from DPI is deceiving according to the presentation. Someone moving into the county would look at the DPI report and be deceived. Dr. Carter said that is why the State is looking to revise the grading formula. This will require legislative change. Commissioner McVey said we need to lobby the Legislature, and Dr. Carter said that is where we need your help.

Dr. Carter also mentioned the Associates degree program in which students can obtain an Associate's degree in the 4 years they attend high school.

Following the slide presentation, the Board of Commissioners were given a chance to ask questions.

Commissioner Dickerson said there is one bit of information that I didn't see in the presentation. Could you tell me the student numbers? Like for 10 years ago to now, what has the enrollment in Caswell County been like? Dr. Carter said I can't tell you for 10 years ago, but they have definitely gone down as in all public schools. Charter schools have popped up across the state. So the enrollment in Caswell has gone down. It has in every surrounding district as Dr. Carter is aware of.

Commissioner Dickerson said every time we lose students; we lose an asset in the public schools. With a continuing decline, how do you propose to fight that loss of students? Dr. Carter said like we just shared, we put out programs and things that will attract students back. A free 2-year Associate's Program is huge. Right now we are looking at building the Arts back up, having drone technology as courses, having a culinary program, and having a music production class. All those things are of high interest. So we hope to attract students back to Caswell because we are offering some things that hopefully some other areas are not offering. Public education as a whole has seen a decline.

Commissioner Dickerson then asked what about skilled trades? Dr. Carter said I'm glad you said that. We were just talking about that 2 weeks ago. There's one that we are hoping to bring back in the next year or so. Can we go ahead and share the skill? The Curriculum Director said yes, and Dr. Carter said we are looking at masonry. We know that that is a huge one. We have wood working and auto mechanics, but masonry is an area that is high dollar paychecks with that skill. It's not all about going to a 4-year university. It has to be a balance. The Arts, as I mentioned, is an area that we need to build because there is a lot of data that talks about the connection between student academics and the arts. Sometimes students connect with the arts and not in other areas. We are trying to offer a good variety of programs for our students. We know that



skilled trades are one to build back up in Caswell. In the past 2 weeks we have been talking about how to get masonry back in the next year or two. Hopefully sooner than that.

Commissioner Dickerson said if you want to draw industry in this county you need to have a skilled workforce such as in electrician, machine shop folks, and people that can keep the facility running. Across the state and everywhere they are struggling. Talk about great paychecks, and it's there. Dr. Carter said I think you are right. I think that would be a huge plus. The Board has mentioned that and Mr. Battle has mentioned that multiple times of wanting more trades. That is our focus.

Vice Chair, Gladys Garland said to speak to the issue about increasing enrollment, today family size is smaller. People are choosing not to have as many children as they once did. I grew up in a community where five or six children per family was the norm. That is one reason also that enrollment is down due to the family size decreasing.

Mel Battle said when I came here 55 year ago, we had roughly 6,000 students and double digit schools. Enrollment is half that now. I attribute that to one thing, which is that people don't have as many babies as they used to. We don't have people moving in, and we don't have industry coming in. If you look at the county enrollment, it is roughly 23,000 people. That's been a steady thing for the last 10 years. We have people that move in, but they don't bring children with them. Even if we got the children back that are in Charter schools, it still would only push us to a little over 3,000 students. I think we have roughly 310 students that live in the county that don't attend school in Caswell County. They go to charter schools, and the largest one being Clover Garden. Plus, we have the home school students. It only takes two kids to make a home school. So you have those numbers involved. Back in 1992, we closed 6 schools and opened North and South Elementary schools. We didn't need those schools then. That change is coming. Like you said Mr. Dickerson, people want the trade industries. You got to have that. If you don't have the workforce for them, they not coming here. Mr. Jefferies can tell you this. When I was on the Board of Commissioners, we had a company from Japan that wanted one of our industrial buildings. They wanted three things: access to the interstate, ample motel space, and ample restaurant space. We did not have any of them. So they went to Smithfield, Virginia. I understand that, but that's what I've seen in the last 55 years.

Commissioner Dickerson said I got one more question. I been hearing a lot of talk and not necessarily from Caswell, but I'm curious as to what your policy is on home schools access to the sports program. Is that allowed here? Dr. Carter said well we just passed a policy that home school can participate in sports if they attend so much during the school day. I think it was half. Mel Battle said two classes. Commissioner Dickerson said why would they have to meet a hurdle to attend any to be a participant in the sports program? Dr. Carter said well because the state is funding Caswell County based on ADM (Average Daily Membership). If they're not enrolled, they're not considered part of the ADM. So we don't receive state money for them. Commissioner Dickerson said well yet and still if they live here in this county, they're paying

October 10, 2022



taxes in this county. They're paying state taxes into the system. Dr. Carter said but it's going to the home school and not to the school system. It helps fund what they are doing. Commissioner Dickerson said a lot of these home schools are not funded at all by any government. I pay for my sons completely out of my pocket. I don't receive a dime from anyone. Mel Battle said it's not our rule. It's the North Carolina High School Athletic Association rule. A long time ago, I'll give you an example. It started with this guy named Tim Tebow. He played professional football from Florida. It's called the Tim Tebow Rule. They were allowed or some states allow that. Home schoolers can participate in regular High School athletics, but not in the state of North Carolina. The North Carolina High School Athletic Association, that is their rule. They have to attend at least half of the school day which is two classes. They can be dual enrolled. They can do homeschool, but they have to be enrolled at the high school at least half of the day. So that's what it is.

Commissioner Oestreicher said I'd just like to make a comment on the uh the equation. The proficiency versus growth. I think you've done an excellent job of presenting how the growth has been quite good. I think at the same time; I am the least appreciative of teaching our children to pass the advancement tests. Period. I think that's a terrible disservice to them, but on the other hand at some point they've got to become proficient at what they're being taught. So I would be very concerned if that proficiency component would drop and reverse to do the 20/80 rule. I think that would be terrible, but I think the growth is important. But I think at some point you reach a point of diminishing returns. Obviously the growth for a third grader compared to the growth for junior in high school, I mean there's only so much room. I think at that point the proficiency becomes very important again when you're getting to that those last grades in high school. Just a comment. I did have questions on homeschool and Charter. Do you have any metrics on how those students perform on the state tests or anything? Dr. Carter said other than what's on the State website. We don't keep up with the charter school or the private school performance per se. I mean all we can do is look on the website, but we don't keep up with that ourselves. Commissioner Oestreicher said you don't provide materials to the Charter Schools or the homeschoolers or anything. Donna Hudson said we have to send some money based on state requirements.

Dr. Carter asked if she ask a question. When will we have broadband? County Manager Miller said as soon as we possibly can. So I'll give you an overview of what broadband looks like right now, if that's okay with the Board. So right now we're in the process, and it's a Federal grant. That program is called RDOF, the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. You can go online and look at RDOF winners. Just Google RDOF winners, and it'll give you a map. It's an interactive map, and you can see what areas were won in Caswell. The majority of the area in Caswell was won by Spectrum. Many of you that live in Caswell have seen Spectrum trucks out doing work, and maybe some people have been turned on by Spectrum at this point in time. Some may have. I think the last count we had was 624 passings, and a passing is a residence, that had been turned on. Vernon is that correct 624 or 640? Commissioner Massengill said well 624, but it's been

October 10, 2022



quite a bit more since then. Then County Manager Miller said so they were obligated to do just over 4,000 passings with the federal money that they received. So they're working hard. They will far exceed the 4,000. Simply because the territories that they had to bid on were separated by census blocks, and census blocks are separated by roads. So in many cases one side of the road was covered; one side of the road wasn't covered by this grant. Well it doesn't make any sense at all for a business just to provide internet to customers that live on one side of the road. They're going to try to make as much money as they can. They're going to provide it to people that live on both sides of those roads. So it'll far exceed 4,000 passings. So that's number one. RDOF, they're building it out, and they've experienced some difficulties with some supply chain issues. There were some permitting issues up front, but they've figured out the hiccups there. So they're working quickly. They plan to deploy about 28 miles of fiber every month from here on out except December, and I think December they're going to do 20 miles of fiber. So they look at being finished March, April, or May time frame of next year. Now that's Spectrum, and that's RDOF. I'll remind you, Caswell was honestly one of the first counties they started working in after they received their award. They have up to six years to build this out. So the fact that they're building us out first and finishing us within a year and a half, I think we're fortunate that they took that stance.

So after RDOF comes the GREAT grant. We received a private internet service provider called Zitel. Zitel got about four million dollars from the state. We provided a lot of upfront data to anybody who wanted it about broadband. Zitel is a company located in Moneta, Virginia. They basically lease dark fiber, and then expand off of that to the home. So all of these are fiber to the home options. Zitel, I think they have two years to complete their build out. They won the GREAT grant award, and they have to match the four million dollars so it'll be about eight million dollars total for Zitel. After the GREAT Grant... I think their award was mostly in Northern Caswell County. Right? I don't really think anything went South of the Yanceyville for Zitel, but they won the award. There's still about 80 million dollars of GREAT grant money available after they went through the first round of awards. So they anticipate coming back through and maybe even authorizing additional grants under the GREAT program for Caswell County. So that's an option. It's not a guarantee, but it's an option that may occur.

After that program, there is a program called CAB. It's Continuing Access to Broadband or Completing Access to Broadband. So the county has a little bit more control over CAB because the state government they'll say you're awarded four million dollars. We get to put out an RFP. Included in that RFP, are the addresses that we know are still underserved after RDOF and after GREAT. So after those two programs, we identified the addresses that we know are still not served or underserved. We put those in the RFP and have providers bid on those specifically. So hopefully that'll get most everybody. Right? We live in a rural community. So there's always that one house three miles down the road that it makes absolutely no sense for a provider to go to. Right? Well the state has another program called Last Mile. What that Last Mile program is going to do is, when that resident says hey I still don't have internet, they'll contact the internet

October 10, 2022



provider that's closest to them. That internet service provider works with the state, and the state pays for them to provide that last mile of service to that customer's home. So theoretically at that point every address within the county that wants internet should have internet.

Mel Battle said follow-up question. I see Spectrum in the southern end. I live over here, and I have Comcast. I'm pleased with Comcast, but I get a call from Spectrum about every week. As soon as I tell them where I live, they hang up. But if you're in the Milton and Semora area, that's CenturyLink out of Roxboro. Is that right? Bryan Miller said phone service, yes. Mel Battle asked who does the cable and internet for that area? Mr. Miller said there are no franchise agreements for broadband internet. Period. Mr. Battle said but still even where you live, you still have what I call dead spots. I can leave my house and don't get service till I get to the Virginia line more or less. County Manager Miller said so for cell phone service, and I'm pleased to announce that there have been five new cell phone towers in Caswell authorized that have not been turned on yet. So hopefully those five new cell phone towers will eliminate some of the problems that you're seeing. I'm not going to tell you they're still not going to be dead zones. Mr. Battle said the towers don't necessarily sell their service to every provider. Mr. Miller said that's true. Mr. Battle said people don't understand that. They say if it's right next to me, I should have it. But if you got Verizon and they don't sell to Verizon you out of luck. Mr. Miller said but still yet it's far more coverage than we've had before. Mr. Battle said true.

Tracy Stanley said so Mr. Miller, you're saying if Spectrum is in front of our houses digging and putting cable down, then we are getting Spectrum. Mr. Miller said well you'll have the opportunity to purchase Spectrum as a customer. Mrs. Stanley said I'm on a first name basis with a man working by my house. Mr. Miller said so the way this works is they've got a map of Caswell County, and they've got a map of the areas that they're supposed to cover within Caswell. They separate those places into what they call nodes. Each node is numbered. I don't know 1 through 15 or 1 through 16, 17, 18, 19, or whatever. So the way the trunk lines run, they have to turn on certain nodes before they can turn on other nodes. So I know it's frustrating, but it's still a good sign that they did work in front of your house four weeks ago. And I still don't have internet. That's true in a lot of cases. They're getting that node prepared to turn on when the trunk is able to connect to the other nodes and feed everything correctly. I know for years and years and years, we've not had internet service. I know it's as frustrating as it can possibly be to see that cable hanging from the telephone pole in front of your house or to see that orange wire sticking up out of the ground in front of your house and you're just that close. We're going to get there. There's a plan. If you all don't know Melissa Williamson, Deputy County Manager and Aisha Gwynn, Assistant County Manager, they're working with me tirelessly on making sure this internet stuff goes through. So we got a good plan. We've got a bunch of good people working on it. It's just going to take a little bit more time.

Commissioner Massengill said to save Bryan 150 calls, don't count on Spectrum turning on the internet in March. Because as Bryan said it comes close to his house. Two poles and stops, but they've got to come back around the other way. So although in our meeting they said March or

October 10, 2022



April... Mrs. Stanley said oh me and Lupe has walked it. Commissioner Massengill said it'll probably be later. They've got till the end of the year anyway. Mr. Miller said well they've actually got six years. Commissioner Massengill said yes, but they have kind of promised the end of next year. Bryan Miller said yes, I truthfully believe they're working as quickly as they can with the constraints that they have. They do have supply chain issues, but the good news is they have the fiber they need for Caswell County sitting in a warehouse. We're taking care of Spectrum wise.

Donna Hudson said one comment I'd like to make. I don't know how much longer we're going to be here, but while Bryan was talking about RDOF and Zitel or whatever it was. I was sort of going what, and I guess you all were feeling for the most part, when we were talking about MTSS, Title I, and ConnectEd, you all were saying what. But I do want to say thank you so much Commissioners for the job that you do. I have no idea. I've never done that job before. What it entails is a lot of responsibility, a lot that you have to do, a lot of people that complain, and not that many attaboys do you get, but we thank you for the job that you do. It's a difficult one. Mel Battle knows. He's done it, but I want to thank you for your service and all of the personnel of Caswell. But one thing I would like to say. I only have three more meetings after this, and Nicole takes over. But like Rick said, some of the things can be sort of confusing. If you have questions about anything, like we didn't have an "F" school and I know it was communicated that we did and there are a lot of data things, call Dr. Carter. I mean call any of us. We want to share. We want to work together. We want as Bryan said we want the best for the kids that we possibly can. No secrets. No hiding things. We shared everything here. So we want to work together, and want it to be a positive working environment as much as we possibly can. And again thank you for your service. It's very time consuming, hard work, and very much most the time unappreciated, but I do thank you for your service so much.

Vice Chair, Gladys Garland said I think I was going to save my comments to later, but while Donna's here go ahead and just kind of pig it back on that. You can see that we are low-wealth district, and we are in need of funds, finances, programs, and all of that. So we do thank you for whatever you sent our way in the budget form.

Commissioner Jefferies said I have one question to say before we leave. I think it's been a very interesting meeting, and you ladies have answered some of my questions about the parents. I think everyone in this building right now can take a part of this. Don't wait on the school board to do it. The commissioners and everyone else need to go out to help get parents involved. If the parents are not involved, it's not going to work. We've got to seek out a way to get the parents involved. That was my presentation, but thank you.

Then County Manager Bryan Miller said so there have been some studies done, and I attended a class at one point at a university that I'll not name. But the class basically said that children who were given scholarships, 100 savings bonds at birth, that they engaged their parents 47% more than children in previous years who did not receive those bonds. And simply it gave the parent the idea that hey, my child is going to college. Hey, there's something I need to do. There's a way

October 10, 2022

we can do this. Somebody else believes in my child. Right? So it was a psychological aspect of hey, something else belongs there. I'm not saying that's right for Caswell County Schools. I'm saying it seemed to have worked there, but you know a lot of times to get parents involved we have to think outside the box. I know you're doing some of that outside the box thinking now, but anyway, I just thought I'd share.

Then Mrs. Garland asked if there were any other questions, concerns, or items for discussion. Well again we just want to say thank you for this joint effort, for us coming together to make the start here to talk about it. We're glad it's coming to fruition. We are doing that, and I think both of us receive some helpful information. I think as it's already been said that if we too can speak the truth to whatever is out there, and not add fuel to the negativity. Find out what's the truth of the matter.

Then Trudy Blackwell asked if we will be meeting quarterly? Is that correct? I just wanted to be sure. Mrs. Garland said yes. So I guess the Chair and Dr. Carter will get together to see when that next meeting will be. But in the meantime, we thank you all everybody for coming and attending.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

A **motion** was made by Vennie Beggarly for the Board of Education and seconded by Trudy Blackwell and **carried unanimously** to adjourn the meeting.

A **motion** was made at 9:19 pm by Commissioner Jefferies and seconded by Commissioner Massengill and **carried unanimously** to adjourn the meeting.

---

Carla R. Smith  
Clerk to the Board

---

Rick McVey  
Chairman

October 10, 2022